

Protecting Curlews in the ACEC

Human activities can harm Long-billed Curlews.

- Since 2009, at least seven curlews from IBO's study were shot on the ACEC soon after their chicks hatched. Their chicks likely died without both parents to care for them.
- Cross-country off-highway vehicle (OHV) driving may disturb or crush well-camouflaged curlew nests and chicks, destroy habitat, and cause wildfires.
- Curlews will mob you, including flying at you and screaming, to protect their family.

Please help protect Curlew families!

- **Let them live.** It is illegal to shoot or harass Long-billed Curlews and other protected non-game species such as songbirds, Burrowing Owls, hawks or eagles.
- **Give them space.** Keep your distance from mobbing parents (500+ yards) so you don't disturb their nest or chicks that are hidden nearby.
- **Stay on designated trails.** OHV driving is limited to designated trails in the ACEC. Trail maps are available from the BLM.
- Shooting birds, harassing birds, and/or driving off trails is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000 and/or imprisonment not to exceed 12 months.

Spread the Word!

Thanks for helping to protect your charismatic curlews! Please tell your friends.

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Partners

Bureau of Land Management
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208-384-3400

Intermountain Bird Observatory
Boise State University
ibo.boisestate.edu/
208-426-4354 or 208-426-5203

Idaho Fish and Game
fishandgame.idaho.gov/
208-465-8465

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
fws.gov/offices/
208-378-5321

Emmett Rough Riders
Idaho Varmint Hunters
Let's Move Emmett
Ron Spomer Outdoors

The Long-billed Curlew Habitat

Area of Critical Environmental Concern

PROTECTING HABITAT

for
the
Long-Billed
Curlew



The Charismatic Long-billed Curlew

The Long-billed Curlew is the largest shore-bird in North America. The female incubates 3-4 eggs during the day while the male fends off predators. After patrolling, males give their mates a break by incubating during the night.

Once the chicks hatch, both parents team up to defend their family. Curlews call aggressively and mob anything that might threaten their chicks, including humans. Even coyotes and fierce birds of prey like Prairie Falcons flee from the curlew's "dive-bomb" attack!

The Habitat

Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)

The Long-billed Curlew Habitat ACEC was established by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in 1988 after biologists discovered it was an important nesting area of Long-billed Curlews. These rolling uplands provide the perfect habitat for this grassland bird, which spends the breeding season, from March through August, in Idaho. The farm fields near the ACEC are important feeding grounds for curlews, where they forage for insects that eat these crops.

Satellite Tracking Project

Intermountain Bird Observatory (IBO)

The ACEC curlew population has dropped from 2,000 to 200 in the last 30 years. Biologists from IBO are working to find out why using satellite transmitters to tell us what habitat is used in Idaho, when they leave for migration, and where they spend the winter. IBO has tracked 5 individual curlews from the ACEC since 2013 (including 1 individual we are currently tracking for a 2nd winter that's showing a very similar pattern between years) and migration distances have ranged from 520-724 miles, averaging 603 miles. Curlews from the ACEC have mostly traveled to California's Central Valley but one has wintered near the Salton Sea. To see where our curlews are today, visit ibo.boisestate.edu/curlewtracking/

